



## The Takeout Double

When Right Hand Opponent opens 1 of a suit “Double” is a *Conventional Bid*.

It is a *competitive bid* made when we have opening values, but no other way of entering the bidding because:-

- We do not have a suit good enough to overcall
- We are unsuitable for overcalling 1NT because we have no stopper in their suit

Some examples:

RHO deals and opens 1♥.

♠ KQ64	♠ AJ65	♠ AQ984	♠ AJ3	♠ K84
♥ 2	♥ 63	♥ J6	♥ KQ4	♥ AQJ753
♦ AQ75	♦ KJ52	♦ AQ102	♦ J1064	♦ 85
♣ QJ93	♣ AK2	♣ 109	♣ AQ2	♣ QJ
Double	Double	A 1♠ overcall	1NT, what else?	Pass – you cannot
The ideal hand	Enough HCP for 1NT but no ♥ stopper			bid ♥s

The double does not mean that opponents will play in their contract doubled – it is a *takeout double*

It says “*Partner, I have opening strength (12+HCP) but no suit good enough to overcall. Please name your longest suit,*”

To make a takeout double we need opening strength but no particularly good suit.

We ask partner to name his longest suit so that we can make it trump

*The takeout double is a way of finding your side’s best trump fit.*

### Responding to a takeout double

We must not pass a takeout double (unless RHO has made a bid.)

We have to bid our best suit – even with no values

*Takeout doubles must be taken out*

Partner has asked you to bid your best suit – so that is what you do

Some examples:

LHO opens 1♥, partner doubles and RHO passes. What do you bid?

♠ 854	♠ K983	♠ KQ875	♠ J3	♠ AK8432
♥ 9762	♥ 8763	♥ 843	♥ A743	♥ 976
♦ 43	♦ 52	♦ K643	♦ KQJ74	♦ 5
♣ 9863	♣ 872	♣ 5	♣ 92	♣ AJ4
2♣	1♠	2♠	3♦	4♠

You must bid your best suit (you do not have to like it.) When you are better than you might be you should jump for joy



## The Takeout Double

**Bidding a new suit when partner makes a takeout double and RHO passes does not promise any values at all**

There are 2 cases where your response shows some values:

- a) When RHO bids he relieves us of our responsibility for bidding. We should pass unless we have some values – enough for at least a weak response to an opening bid
- b) When our best suit is the one LHO opened we may bid no-trump. Bidding 1NT/2NT promises the same values as you need to respond to an opening bid, preferably with a double stop in the suit opened.

(On the whole prefer to bid your best suit, as partner has asked)